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Rep. Ellen Tauscher Criticizes Spending \$10 Billion On Unproven Missile Shield

Below is a statement by Rep. Ellen Tauscher, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, on the President's budget plan to spend \$10 billion next year alone on a missile defense scheme that has not been proven to work.

"It's a tragic irony that after the 9-11 Commission has just heard testimony about how terrorists turned hijacked airplanes into weapons of mass destruction, we are talking about spending \$10 billion next year alone on a shield we hope can stop a ballistic missile. That's a lot of money on something that doesn't even work. In fact, the administration is changing the goal posts mid-game to redefine what a 'successful' test is and shamefully rigging the results.

"I support a limited missile shield. Once that actually works, we can talk about developing a larger system.

"Spending \$10 billion in one year on this pie-in-the-sky program has nothing to do with science or smart investments to protect the American people. If we were going to do that, we'd work harder to stop terrorists and rogue regimes from actually getting nuclear material and developing weapons – not sit here talking about how to shoot them down in mid-air. Rather, this administration's overzealous commitment to missile defense is based on an extreme ideology that has led to destabilizing, dangerous, and highly misguided defense policies in the past.

"Like September 11, I fear the administration is missing the real threat. Like Iraq, I fear the evidence just is not there. We must learn from past miscalculations vis-à-vis September 11 and Iraq, and we must not let this administration take us down the wrong path again."

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